

Marshfield Conservation Commission
Minutes
Meeting of 3 Oct. 2018

Members Present: , Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Anne Miller (left at 8), Annie Reed, and Rachel Rudi

Approval of Minutes September minutes were not approved

Treasurers Report: There was no new activity since the Commission's last meeting; no report was given. The Commission's current operating balance is \$121.46. Conservation fund balance has not changed.

Natural Marshfield:

- Donations from Tom Wessels' talk did not cover his costs, which were near \$950.
- Anne is considering Sue Morse for the next celebrity naturalist talk, and Kim Royer for the next Natural Marshfield talk. Kim could present on the history of land use in Vermont.

Stranahan Town Forest:

- The Stranahan Committee approved the new bike trail starting at Jake Martin Road.
- Ed, Rich Phillips and Diana worked on the walking trail (from Jake Martin to Moonfield), clearing blown-down trees.
- Ed is exploring options for the hiking trail to circumvent the very wet terrain on the Thompson Road, which gets torn up by bikes and horses. Suggestion to construct a bridge along the path for pedestrians and cyclists, which would take stress away from the road but doesn't address the use by horses. Another suggestion is to raise the road with crushed rock, letting water flow underneath the rock and evening out the surface. This would be expensive.
- The culvert on Thompson Road toward Pitkin Road is not draining well. Rich Phillips wants to create a gradient by digging a 40' ditch on the downhill side of the road. This would dig directly into wetland, however. Ed is going to pursue other solutions with the Stranahan Committee.

Sugaring Operation:

- Three walks have been scheduled by the Water Wise Woodlands group: October 13 in Marshfield, October 20 in Cabot and October 28 in Plainfield.
- Mailers for the walks are being sent to 400 forest landowners across the three towns.
 - More discussion on options for long-term and substantive monitoring of the sugarbush in Marshfield. Suggestion to consider infared imagery to asses stress on trees. The state has such imagery from recent years which may be able to serve as a baseline.
 - Other monitoring considerations include understanding general versus state qualifications for organic status, and increasing rates of forest tent caterpillars.

Other Business:

- Ed and Steve weeded the fruit trees before the meeting. They did very well this year since planting in the spring.

Submitted On: 8 October 2018

Approved On: 7 Nov 2018

Submitted By: Rachel Rudi